

**U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration  
Fiscal Year 1999 Performance Plan**

**February 6, 1998**

## Table of Contents

	Page
1. Introduction .....	1
2. Overview of the MSHA Strategic Plan .....	2
2.1 Mission .....	2
2.2 Vision .....	2
2.3 MSHA Strategic Goals .....	3
2.4 MSHA Organization .....	4
3. Strategic Goals and the FY 1999 Budget .....	5
4. Performance Goals and Indicators .....	7
4.1 MSHA Strategic Goal: Reduce injuries in the Nation's mines .....	8
4.2 MSHA Strategic Goal: Reduce miners' exposure to health hazards .....	12
4.3 Validation .....	19
5. Agency Cross-Cutting Issues .....	20
6. Management Issues .....	22
Appendix A: List of Acronyms .....	23
Appendix B: Relationship of MSHA Program Activities to Strategic Goals .....	24

**U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration  
Fiscal Year 1999 Performance Plan**

**1. Introduction**

The Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) mission is to protect the safety and health of the Nation's miners and operates under the mandate of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act (Mine Act). This mission is in concert with the Department of Labor's Strategic Goal of *Quality Workplaces: Foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy, and fair*. The two MSHA strategic goals are to: *Reduce injuries in the Nation's mines* and *Reduce miners' overexposure to health hazards*.

To carry out its mission, MSHA conducts annually at least four complete inspections of every underground mine and two of every surface operation as required by the Mine Act. Additional inspections of mines experiencing significant methane gas liberation and a high incidence rate of serious accidents, injuries, or overexposures to airborne contaminants and harmful physical agents are also conducted. Other enforcement activities include mandated investigations that are prompted by accidents, by safety or discrimination complaints, and by the identification of mine operators who demonstrate reckless disregard for safety or health standards or refuse to comply with orders issued under the Mine Act. Activities designed to assist industry and labor in improving safety and health conditions and practices in the mines are also an integral part of the Agency's enforcement programs. MSHA assesses civil penalties for violations of safety and health standards, approves and certifies mining equipment, materials, and explosives for use in mines, and provides education and training and technical assistance to support its mission.

MSHA's FY 1999 program activities and initiatives focus on reducing miners' injuries and overexposures to health hazards by applying the Agency's human, financial, and information technology resources in the most effective manner. Completion of mandatory inspections and investigations will continue as a critical part of ascertaining compliance with Federal safety and health standards. Special emphasis and educational outreach initiatives will also be continued and strengthened to focus attention on the root causes of persistent safety and health problems and the implementation of preventive measures.

## **2. Overview of the MSHA Strategic Plan**

The MSHA FY 1997-2002 Strategic Plan focuses attention on the key element in the Agency mandate—protecting the safety and health of miners. The strategic plan sets two Agency results goals: reduce injuries in the Nation's mines and reduce miners' overexposures to health hazards.

### **2.1 Mission**

MSHA's mission is to protect the safety and health of the Nation's miners. The Mine Act requires MSHA to establish and determine compliance with Federal safety and health standards through inspections and investigations, and to work cooperatively with the mining industry, labor, and the States to improve training programs aimed at preventing accidents and occupationally-caused diseases.

### **2.2 Vision**

The first priority and concern of everyone in the mining community must be the health and safety of its most precious resource—the miner. Deaths and serious injuries from unsafe and unhealthful conditions in mines are unacceptable. MSHA remains committed to its efforts to bring about reductions in fatalities, injuries, and illnesses by pursuing the steps outlined in this Strategic Plan. Achieving this outcome requires a flexible and responsive organization with the capabilities to address constantly changing health and safety challenges efficiently and effectively in an era of limited resources. By achieving its strategic goals and objectives, MSHA will enhance its position as the leading authority on mine safety and health in the world.

The mining environment has been and continues to be a potentially hazardous place to work. Constant vigilance on the part of the mine operators and miners is required to mitigate the conditions that cause accidents, injuries, and illnesses. MSHA will strive to find new ways to improve working conditions in the Nation's mines.

## 2.3 MSHA Strategic Goals

The MSHA strategic goals focus directly on the results to be achieved in support of the MSHA mission statement. Each goal has performance objectives that set the course for MSHA's annual plan:

### C Reduce injuries in the Nation's mines.

- < Reduce the number of coal mine and metal and nonmetal mine fatalities by focusing on categories of accidents (including haulage, roof/ground falls, and machinery).
- < Reduce mine industry injuries (nonfatal-days-lost incidence rate).

### C Reduce miners' overexposure to health hazards.

- < Reduce the percentage of samples out of compliance with the respirable coal mine dust standard.
- < Reduce the percentage of samples out of compliance for Metal and Nonmetal Mines silica standard for the highest risk occupations.
- < Reduce the abatement time for silica overexposures in metal/nonmetal mines.
- < Reduce the percentage of samples out of compliance with Metal and Nonmetal Mines noise standard.
- < Finalize the mine health standard for diesel particulates; reduce noncompliance with the standard for diesel particulates.

## **2.4 MSHA Organization**

MSHA carries out its mission through its enforcement, compliance, and support organizations in a synergistic effort. MSHA has the following organization:

- C Office of the Assistant Secretary
- C Coal Mine Safety and Health Administration
- C Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health Administration
- C Office of Assessments
- C Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances
- C Directorate of Educational Policy and Development
- C Directorate of Technical Support
- C Directorate of Administration and Management
- C Directorate of Program Evaluation and Information Resources

### 3. Strategic Goals and the FY 1999 Budget

The MSHA FY 1999 Performance Plan is an integral component of the Department of Labor's Performance Plan, specifically the Departmental cross-cutting strategic goal of *Quality Workplaces—Foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy, and fair* and the Departmental outcome goal to *Reduce workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities*.

The FY 1999 Budget proposes \$211 million for mine safety and health. MSHA is committed to reducing mine-related accidents, injuries, and fatalities, as well as placing greater emphasis on health issues. This budget request supports MSHA programs in Coal Mine Safety and Health, Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health, Educational Policy and Development, Technical Support, Assessments, Standards, Regulations and Variances, and Program Administration. All MSHA program activities work in a complementary fashion to identify and mitigate the many hazards in mine operations. MSHA requirements relate directly to national and international economic trends and the response by the mining industry. These include construction and road building activity, precious metal and other metal prices, energy and clean air policies, global competition for mineral products, and mining technologies, processes, and workforce practices.

- C Reducing the number of mine fatalities and reducing mine industry nonfatal-days-lost incidence rate. This will be squarely attacked through mandated inspections and assistance, with special attention on mines experiencing significant methane liberation and a high incidence rate of serious accidents and injuries.
- C Placing special inspection emphasis on the types of mines and accident types experiencing high levels of injuries and fatalities. As a certain trend becomes evident targeted "safety sweeps" will be conducted to educate and assist mine workers and operators in ways to improve the safety environment.
- C Reducing miners' exposure to recognized hazardous health conditions will be targeted by increasing the percentage of personal exposures in compliance with the limits for noise, silica, and coal mine dust. This will be accomplished through increased dust sampling, education and training, technical assistance, promulgating mine health regulations, and assessing civil penalties for violations when required.
- C Reducing exposure to diesel particulates. MSHA is developing a standard for exposure to diesel particulates—identified for rulemaking because of the increased use of diesel equipment in mining operations.

Specific budget initiatives are:

- C An increase of \$2.7 million to improve Federal efforts to reduce the risk of exposure to excessive levels of respirable coal mine dust and better prevent occupational lung diseases such as coal workers' pneumoconiosis (Black Lung) and silicosis.
- C An increase of \$1.2 million to expand the use of focused special emphasis initiatives in mining targeting the root causes of accidents and to direct needed attention to miners' health protection, particularly at high risk operations and high risk occupations.
- C An increase of \$.7 million to enhance MSHA's information technology infrastructures, particularly to make electronic information more readily available to both Agency employees and the public.
- C An increase of \$.1 million to develop and implement cost accounting systems that are a necessary component of measuring program performance.



#### **4. Performance Goals and Indicators**

MSHA's FY 1999 program activities and initiatives focus on reducing miners' injuries and exposure to health hazards by applying the Agency's human, financial, and information technology resources in the most effective manner. Completion of mandatory inspections and investigations will continue as a critical part of ascertaining compliance with Federal safety and health standards. Special emphasis and educational outreach initiatives will also be continued and strengthened to focus attention on the root causes of persistent safety and health problems and the implementation of preventive measures.

In FY 1999, MSHA will measure its performance against the goal of reducing miners' injuries and fatalities below the previous five year average based on accident and injury data reported by mine operators. This is not to say the process is perfect, but the Agency's current reporting and auditing procedures do provide reasonable assurance that the data collected are accurate. Externally, the Agency uses this information to report on accident and injury trends in the mining industry. Internally, this information guides inspection work, and provides a substantive basis for and direction to the Agency's overall efforts, particularly rule-making responsibilities.

MSHA will also measure its performance against the goal of reducing miners' overexposures to health hazards by improvements in mine operators' compliance with health standards. These improvements should result in a reduction in miners' exposure to health hazards and, ultimately, a reduction in occupationally-caused illnesses and diseases.

#### 4.1 MSHA Strategic Goal: Reduce injuries in the Nation's mines

##### Performance Goals:

<b>QUALITY WORKPLACES</b> —Foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy, and fair	
Outcome Goal (Departmental):	Reduce workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.
MSHA Strategic Goal:	Reduce injuries in the Nation's mines.
Supporting Budget Activity/Decision Unit Titles and P&F Schedules:	Coal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.01) Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.02) Standards Development (16-1200-01-554.03) Assessments (16-1200-01-554.04) Educational Policy and Development (16-1200-01-554.05) Technical Support (16-1200-01-554.06) Program Administration (16-1200-01-554.07)
Performance Goal (FY 99):	<b>Reduce the number of coal mine and metal and nonmetal mine fatalities by focusing on categories of accidents (including haulage, roof/ground falls, and machinery) to below the average number recorded for the previous five years.</b>
Indicator:	Coal and metal/nonmetal mine fatalities in the top three categories of accidents.
Source of Data:	Mine Accident, Injury, Illness, Employment, and Coal Production System (30 CFR Part 50)
Baseline:	58.6 average for FY 1993-1997 (five-year average) in the top three categories of accidents; the five-year moving average will be updated each year.
Comment:	Five year moving average is used to reduce irregular fluctuations in order to highlight trends in performance measure.

<b>QUALITY WORKPLACES</b> —Foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy, and fair	
Outcome Goal (Departmental):	Reduce workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.
MSHA Strategic Goal:	Reduce injuries in the Nation's mines.
Supporting Budget Activity/Decision Unit Titles and P&F Schedules:	Coal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.01) Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.02) Standards Development (16-1200-01-554.03) Assessments (16-1200-01-554.04) Educational Policy and Development (16-1200-01-554.05) Technical Support (16-1200-01-554.06) Program Administration (16-1200-01-554.07)
Performance Goal (FY 99):	Reduce mine industry injuries (nonfatal-days-lost incidence rate) to below the average number recorded for the previous five years.
Indicator:	Coal and metal/nonmetal mine industry nonfatal-days-lost incidence rate.
Source of Data:	Mine Accident, Injury, Illness, Employment, and Coal Production System (30 CFR Part 50)
Baseline:	4.60 average incident rate for FY 1992-1996; FY 1997 data not yet complete; the five-year moving average will be updated each year.
Comment:	Five year moving average is used to reduce irregular fluctuations in order to highlight trends in performance measure.

## **Means and Strategies — Reduce injuries in the Nation's mines**

### **Sustained efforts in FY 1999**

- C Conduct annual inspections required by the Mine Act and inspections of mines experiencing significant methane gas liberation or a high incidence rate of serious accidents and injuries.
- C Other enforcement activities to include mandated investigations that are prompted by accidents, by safety and discrimination complaints, and by the identification of mine operators who exhibit reckless disregard for safety or health standards or who refuse to comply with orders issued under the Act.
- C Fatal accidents and serious nonfatal accidents will be investigated by MSHA specialists. These investigations provide valuable information which is also used by industry and labor organizations to develop strategies to prevent similar occurrences and to promote awareness in areas of concern.
- C Activities designed to assist industry and labor in improving safety and health conditions and practices in the mines include assisting mine operators in solving difficult health and safety problems, distributing training materials and safety posters, and conducting seminars and giving talks on mine health and safety in critical areas.
- C Continue standards development.
- C Review existing regulations that are outdated, obsolete, inadequate, redundant, or otherwise need revision to meet the Administration's reinvention goals.
- C Assess violations of safety and health standards.
- C Collect civil penalties.
- C Provide a unified, comprehensive direction on matters related to MSHA's role in education and training activities.
- C Operate the National Mine Health and Safety Academy.
- C Award grant funds to States.

### **Significant New or Enhanced Efforts in FY 1999**

- C Expand Hazard Targeting efforts. Often, because of the scope and complexity of inspection activities, inspectors lack the time necessary to determine the underlying causes of unsafe and unhealthy conditions and/or practices that they discover during the course of their inspections. If the underlying causes are not addressed and appropriate remedies and preventive measures implemented, safety and health problems will persist. In FY 1999, MSHA is proposing to increase resources, \$1.2 million and 16 FTE, for the analysis and resolution of difficult compliance problems for targeted hazards. The Agency will take a cooperative approach with mine operators to encourage long-range solutions that should result in a safer and healthier work environment for the Nation's miners.
- C Enhance MSHA data accessibility.
- C Evaluate MSHA's mainframe systems and data communications infrastructure.

#### 4.2 MSHA Strategic Goal: Reduce miners' exposure to health hazards

##### Performance Goals:

<b>QUALITY WORKPLACES</b> —Foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy, and fair	
Outcome Goal (Departmental):	Reduce workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.
MSHA Strategic Goal:	Reduce miners' overexposure to health hazards.
Supporting Budget Activity/Decision Unit Titles and P&F Schedules:	Coal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.01) Standards Development (16-1200-01-554.03) Assessments (16-1200-01-554.04) Educational Policy and Development (16-1200-01-554.05) Technical Support (16-1200-01-554.06) Program Administration (16-1200-01-554.07)
Performance Goal (FY 99):	Reduce by 5% the percentage of samples out of compliance with the respirable coal mine dust standard in FY 1999.
Indicator:	Compliance with the coal mine dust standard.
Source of Data:	Coal Safety and Health Management Information System.
Baseline:	To be determined in FY 1998.
Comment:	Respirable dust is one of the three major health hazards to miners. Prevention of black lung disease is a priority health initiative.

<b>QUALITY WORKPLACES</b> —Foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy, and fair	
Outcome Goal (Departmental):	Reduce workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.
MSHA Strategic Goal:	Reduce miners' overexposure to health hazards.
Supporting Budget Activity/Decision Unit Titles and P&F Schedules:	Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.02) Standards Development (16-1200-01-554.03) Assessments (16-1200-01-554.04) Educational Policy and Development (16-1200-01-554.05) Technical Support (16-1200-01-554.06) Program Administration (16-1200-01-554.07)
Performance Goal (FY 99):	Reduce by 5% the percentage of samples out of compliance for Metal and Nonmetal Mines silica standard for the highest risk occupations in FY 1999.
Indicator:	Compliance with the permissible level for silica exposure in metal/nonmetal mines.
Source of Data:	Metal and Nonmetal Safety and Health Management Information System.
Baseline:	13.2% of silica samples not in compliance in metal/nonmetal mines as of 3Q FY 1997. Baseline will be set in FY 1998.
Comment:	Respirable silica dust is one of the three major health hazards to miners and is prevalent in metal and nonmetal mining operations. Prevention of silicosis is a priority health initiative.

<b>QUALITY WORKPLACES</b> —Foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy, and fair	
Outcome Goal (Departmental):	Reduce workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.
MSHA Strategic Goal:	Reduce miners' overexposure to health hazards.
Supporting Budget Activity/Decision Unit Titles and P&F Schedules:	Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.02) Standards Development (16-1200-01-554.03) Assessments (16-1200-01-554.04) Educational Policy and Development (16-1200-01-554.05) Technical Support (16-1200-01-554.06) Program Administration (16-1200-01-554.07)
Performance Goal (FY 99):	Reduce the abatement time for silica overexposures in metal/nonmetal mines.
Indicator:	Abatement time for silica overexposures in metal/nonmetal mines.
Source of Data:	Metal and Nonmetal Safety and Health Management Information System.
Baseline:	To be determined in FY 1999.
Comment:	This indicator measures the time between the sampling, identification, and notification of overexposure to the time a mine comes into compliance through corrective actions. After the baseline is established, the goal is to incrementally reduce the abatement time for overexposure by 2% by the end of FY 2002.



<b>QUALITY WORKPLACES</b> —Foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy, and fair	
Outcome Goal (Departmental):	Reduce workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.
MSHA Strategic Goal:	Reduce miners' overexposure to health hazards.
Supporting Budget Activity/Decision Unit Titles and P&F Schedules:	Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.02) Standards Development (16-1200-01-554.03) Assessments (16-1200-01-554.04) Educational Policy and Development (16-1200-01-554.05) Technical Support (16-1200-01-554.06) Program Administration (16-1200-01-554.07)
Performance Goal (FY 99):	Reduce by 5% the percentage of samples out of compliance with Metal and Nonmetal Mines noise standard in FY 1999.
Indicator:	Compliance with the permissible level for noise in metal/nonmetal mines.
Source of Data:	Metal and Nonmetal Safety and Health Management Information System.
Baseline:	11.5% of noise samples in metal/nonmetal mines not in compliance as of 3Q FY 1997. Baseline will be set in FY 1998.
Comment:	Noise is one of the three major health hazards to mine workers. The measure is restricted to metal and nonmetal mines since regulations in the coal mining industry require miners to wear hearing protection.

<b>QUALITY WORKPLACES</b> —Foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy, and fair	
Outcome Goal (Departmental):	Reduce workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.
MSHA Strategic Goal:	Reduce miners' overexposure to health hazards.
Supporting Budget Activity/Decision Unit Titles and P&F Schedules:	Coal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.01) Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health (16-1200-01-554.02) Standards Development (16-1200-01-554.03) Assessments (16-1200-01-554.04) Educational Policy and Development (16-1200-01-554.05) Technical Support (16-1200-01-554.06) Program Administration (16-1200-01-554.07)
Performance Goal (FY 99):	Finalize the (mine) health standard for diesel particulates in FY 1999.
Indicator:	Compliance with the diesel particulate standard.
Source of Data:	Coal Safety and Health Management Information System and Metal and Nonmetal Safety and Health Management Information System.
Baseline:	Baseline will be set in FY 2001.
Comment:	Diesel-powered mining machinery is becoming more widely used in mine operations. Increased use in underground mines poses a potential health hazard to miners. After a baseline is established, the goal is to increase the percentage of mines in compliance with the diesel particulate standard by 2% by the end of FY 2002.

## **Means and Strategies—Reduce miners' overexposures to health hazards**

### **Sustained efforts in FY 1999**

- C Conduct annual inspections required by the Mine Act and inspections of mines experiencing a high incidence rate of overexposure to respirable coal mine dust or crystalline silica.
- C Other enforcement activities include mandated investigations that are prompted by the identification of mine operators who exhibit reckless disregard for safety or health standards or who refuse to comply with orders issued under the Act.
- C Activities designed to assist industry and labor in improving safety and health conditions include assisting mine operators in solving difficult health and safety problems, distributing training materials and safety posters to mine operators, and conducting seminars and giving talks on mine health and safety in critical areas.
- C Continue standards development.
- C Finalize the new diesel particulate standard.
- C Review existing regulations that are outdated, obsolete, inadequate, redundant, or otherwise need revision to meet the Administration's reinvention goals.
- C Assess violations of safety and health standards.
- C Collect civil penalties.
- C Provide a unified, comprehensive direction on matters related to MSHA's role in education and training activities.
- C Operate the National Mine Health and Safety Academy.
- C Award grant funds to States.
- C Continue timely approval of mine equipment.
- C Continue field and laboratory forensic investigations.

### **Significant New or Enhanced Efforts in FY 1999**

- C Increase dust sampling activities—Respirable Dust Program. A major component of the Federal program to protect miners from the hazards associated with overexposure to respirable coal mine dust and silica is the requirement that mine operators sample, on a bimonthly basis, occupations that have a high risk of exposure. Concern over the effectiveness of the existing program has been raised by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and a federally-appointed advisory committee comprised of members from industry, labor, academia, and government. To address this concern, MSHA has taken steps in FY 1997 and FY 1998 to increase federal monitoring of exposure limits to aid in restoring confidence in the Federal program. In FY 1999, the Agency is proposing additional resources, \$2.7 million and 40 FTE, to target sampling inspections at problem mines or those mines that continue to have difficulty maintaining consistent compliance. These actions, however, will not replace the operator sampling program.
- C Expand Hazard Targeting efforts (see above).
- C Enhance MSHA data accessibility.
- C Evaluate MSHA's mainframe systems and data communications infrastructure.

### 4.3 Validation

MSHA has a significant database and collection system that captures most of the information necessary to track performance under the strategic plan.

For performance measures under the strategic goal *Reduce injuries in the Nation's mines* — **Reduce mine industry nonfatal-days-lost incidence rate to below the average number recorded for the previous five years** and **Reduce the number of mine fatalities to below the average number recorded for the previous five years in the top three categories of accidents—haulage, roof fall, and machinery** — MSHA relies on mine operators and contractors to comply with legal requirements to accurately and timely report injuries and accidents. The degree of compliance may be influenced by the number of audits conducted by MSHA inspectors.

For performance measures under the strategic goal *Reduce miners' overexposure to health hazards*:

**Percentage of personal exposures in compliance with the permissible level for noise in metal/nonmetal mines** and **Percentage of personal exposures for the highest risk occupations in metal/nonmetal mines that are in compliance with the permissible exposure level for silica**: Metal and Nonmetal (MNM) inspectors have conducted industry-wide sampling since the 1970's. MNM health policies, sampling procedures, and management information system (MIS) are well-established and reliable. Automated devices are used to weigh inspector dust samples at MSHA's analytical lab which will be certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygienists during FY 1998. Computer edits assure the accuracy of MIS data input.

**Abatement time for silica overexposure**: MNM will further establish the link between personal health samples and citations issued during FY 1998. This link will enable the agency to track issue dates and termination dates and, thereby, ensure prompt abatement. MNM health policies, sampling procedures, and MIS reporting are well-established and reliable. Computer edits assure the accuracy of MIS data input.

**Percent of samples in compliance with the respirable coal mine dust standard as measured by MSHA sampling policy**: MSHA's system for determining compliance with the coal respirable dust standard has been in place since the 1970's and procedures are well established to ascertain the accuracy and reliability of the data. Automated devices are used to weigh the inspector dust samples and automatically enter the results into a custom designed program that updates the dust

## **5. Agency Cross-Cutting Issues**

MSHA maintains a number of automated data systems which capture health and safety statistics; mine employment and coal production data; inspection and investigation information; civil penalty assessment data; mine ownership information; and mining equipment approval information. Data from these systems is provided to companies, organizations, and federal and state agencies. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH); The Office of Surface Mining (OSM); National Geological Survey (NGS); and the Department of Energy (DOE) are some of the federal agencies with whom MSHA shares data.

The Mine Act calls for coordination on research between MSHA and NIOSH. MSHA provides NIOSH with its research needs. There is a MSHA–NIOSH MOU for the joint approval of respirators -- NIOSH evaluates respirator performance; MSHA evaluates its mine-worthiness. Because NIOSH has facilities for explosives research, MSHA evaluates NIOSH test results as part of MSHA's approval process. Due to concern raised by NIOSH and a federally appointed advisory committee over the effectiveness of the existing respirable dust sampling program, MSHA is taking steps to increase federal monitoring of exposure limits. MSHA and NIOSH also coordinate on educational activities. MSHA also takes advantage of NIOSH medical expertise in enforcement and standards development.

MSHA interacts with OSHA on several fronts. MSHA provides expertise on evaluating laboratories under OSHA's certification program of National Recognized Testing Laboratories. MSHA provides technical support assistance to OSHA in accident investigations where MSHA expertise can be called into play. OSHA performs asbestos analysis for MSHA. MSHA and OSHA coordinate on equipment testing, standards, and jurisdictional referrals.

MSHA supported and participated in the Department of Labor's National Campaign to Eliminate Silicosis — launched jointly with the American Lung Association, NIOSH, and OSHA. As a follow-up, MSHA's has developed informational materials and sponsored silicosis awareness and prevention seminars throughout the country.

MSHA evaluates and approves mine waste dam plans at coal mines. These evaluations are required by and used by many state offices of reclamation and by the Office of Surface Mining. MSHA is a contributor to the National Inventory of Dams and a member of the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety, headed by FEMA.

MSHA provides seismic location equipment to FEMA for urban search and rescue operations.

(MOU on uranium milling).

MSHA's National Mine Health and Safety Academy provides training, such as fire-fighting and accident prevention, to other federal agencies. Other agencies, such as OSHA and the Naval Air Warfare Systems Center for Training and Development, have reciprocated by providing training for MSHA's specialists.

MSHA refers certain delinquent civil penalties owed to Treasury or Justice for servicing as required by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996.

MSHA refers contested civil penalty cases to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission as required by the Mine Act.

MSHA works closely with the Department of Justice through U.S. Attorney Offices around the country to prosecute willful violations of mine safety and health laws.

## **6. Management Issues**

Information Resources. To make electronic information more readily available to both Agency employees and the public over the next five years, MSHA intends to consolidate its various information systems on a common platform, expand its existing Internet capability, and develop an Intranet capability. In the first year, FY 1999, the Agency is proposing to complete a requirements analysis and functional evaluation of its information systems and to take the first steps toward: improving mainframe data accessibility through the Internet, developing an electronic reading room, and implementing an automated document management system. MSHA will also reduce the information collection burden on the mining industry by implementing electronic submission of information to MSHA via the Internet.

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). MSHA is preparing to enhance its ability to develop and implement the cost accounting systems that are a necessary component of measuring and reporting program effectiveness under GPRA.

The assessments database management system, while currently meeting MSHA's needs, is subject to an OIG recommendation that it be able to communicate directly with the Department's DOLARSS\$ financial database system and meet all applicable accounting standards. This situation is common to other Department agencies with similar databases. MSHA plans to address this issue after all Year 2000 issues have been resolved.



## **Appendix A: List of Acronyms**

BATF	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOE	Department of Energy
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FY	Fiscal Year
MIS	Management Information System
MNM	Metal and Nonmetal
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration
NIOSH	National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
NGS	National Geologic Survey
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSM	Office of Surface Mining

## **Appendix B: Relationship of MSHA Program Activities to Strategic Goals**

Strategic Goal: Reduce injuries in the Nation's mines

- C Coal Mine Safety and Health
- C Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health
- C Assessments
- C Standards, Regulations and Variances
- C Educational Policy and Development
- C Technical Support
- C Program Administration

Strategic Goal: Reduce miners' overexposure to health hazards

- C Coal Mine Safety and Health
- C Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health
- C Assessments
- C Standards, Regulations and Variances
- C Educational Policy and Development
- C Technical Support
- C Program Administration